

# the Brassie

**Brassie n.**

'In place of the many spoons of a nearly bygone age, there has come into use a club named 'the brassie'. This weapon, lofted somewhat more than a driver and less than a spoon, is shod or soled, with brass, whereby its wielder is enabled to play off roads and hard lies without injury to the head.'

*In Horace Hutchinson's Badminton Golf (1890).*

## Captain's Corner

### The Societies Challenge for the Al Howard Trophy at Woodlands GC Mordialloc, Vic.

It was a fine day at Woodlands GC despite the chance of showers. The course was in good condition with the greens recovering from renovation and the trees that give the course its name as attractive as ever.

By noon there was bustle around the clubhouse and putting green as members of the Golf Society and Golf Collectors Society renewed friendships. Some players were new to hickory golf and anticipation was high. The Collectors were defending the Trophy and the strength of their team made them quietly confident. But it was expected that home course advantage – Woodlands is one of Melbourne's famous sand belt

courses – might suit the Golf Society.

A warm welcome from GSA President Keith Wood and the light lunch at 1 o'clock started proceedings. Handicaps were noted and the draw made for eleven matches over 12 holes against handicap.

Barry Leithhead hit off for the visitors against Murray Cropley, a first timer who found himself 3 up after 3 holes. Barry won 4 of the next 5 then Murray squared the match at the 400m par 4 ninth with a brilliant par into the wind. Two poor strokes in Barry's next three holes and Golf Society won the first match.

Presidents Tom Moore and Keith Wood were next in a group with Captains Peter Read and Lindsay Gitsham. Tom produced fine golf under pressure to over-

## The Golf Collectors Society of Australia

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come the 10 shots given to Keith. At the 11<sup>th</sup> Tom's second shot was a precise fairway wood through a narrow opening in the trees to a heavily bunkered green, for a par, going to dormie 1. Tom had an easy par while Keith skidded his approach through the green and was unable to recover – Tom won 2 up. Peter was also dormie 1 at the 12<sup>th</sup> in a very even match – Lindsay had driven well and Peter (who lost three balls) was best around the greens. The match was square from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> and Peter went one up on 11. At the 12<sup>th</sup>, Peter mis-hit his drive, chipped back to the fairway and his third was 8m behind the pin. Lindsay drove well but his second missed the green and his third and fourth found bunkers. The Golf Collectors led 2 matches to 1.

Don Murray for the Golf Society played consistently up the middle and with 'old man cunning' around the green, to lead all the way against Henry Paterson. Henry's highlight was a firm duck hook into the left rough on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, recovered strongly into a bunker, just scrambled out on to the green, where it rolled into the hole for an unlikely birdie! But his fame was short-lived and Don won 3 & 2.

Ross Howard for the Collectors Society in his first game of golf for months, had emotion on his side, playing for a trophy won by his grandfather Tom in 1921 and named after his father Al. Against Woodlands Captain Barry Donovan, Ross was 2 down after 2, then halved 2 and from the 5<sup>th</sup>, found his rhythm, winning 3 of the next 5 holes with the aid of handicap advantage. Another match to the Collectors, 3 & 2.

Noel Terry was against Glenn McCully and after some very fine golf – the only way Noel plays the game – the match was halved. This was Glenn's first attempt to play with hickory clubs and his over-

riding feeling was that he did not make a fool of himself. The match went down to the wire and Glenn was two down with four to play but won the next three holes. To Noel's credit he made a very good par to Glenn's bogey on the 12<sup>th</sup> hole to square the match.

Veteran Pro Ian Alexander gave Ross Baker 5 strokes over the 12 holes and called it a gruelling match. He won 1 up. Ross admitted they both played some poor golf. Ian Hewitt played very well to beat Janet Hibbins, who found hickory golf a completely different experience, 7 & 5. Michael Sheret was square with Pete Gompertz after nine. *If* Michael's perfectly executed bump-and-run on the 10th hadn't stopped dead on the first bump, and *if* his perfectly executed bump-and-run on the 11th hadn't run on and on, he might have held Pete to a draw. But neither *ifs* were and Pete won 2 up for the Society. The Collector's Peter Stickley might have had an advantage in having Robert Allenby's godfather (who has a large collection of hickories) as his caddy. Playing for only the second time with hickories, Peter drove the ball well and was amazed by the fairway woods. There was little in his match with the Society's Cliff George and Peter won 2 up, with the same margin for the Collectors Alan Heil over Ian Rennick.

It was evident as the players were leaving the course that the Golf Society team was not winning frequently enough and the eventual result favoured the Collectors 7 matches to 3 with 1 drawn.

Dinner was relaxed time and a very enjoyable meal. There were ample opportunities for the Societies to exchange news and views and develop further their shared interest in promoting the value of golf's history in Australia. It was a very worthwhile occasion.



Tom Moore has his hands firmly on the Howard family silver, proving that winners are grinners while Keith Wood shows momentary disappointment.

The Howard family donated the trophy through Ross, one of the Collectors players. It is named after Ross's father Al, now aged 92, a Professional golfer and course designer and still going strong. Al's father Tom won the trophy in the 1921 NSW Amateur Championship. Tom Howard turned professional in 1922 and was employed by Concord GC in place of Arthur East who relocated to the U.S.A

**14th AUSTRALIAN HICKORY CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP - 2005**

(Under the auspices of the Australian Historic Golf Trust.)

VENUE: The Rosnay Links, Auburn

DATE: 12.30pm Thursday 10 November 2005

ENTRY FEE: \$45:00

ENTRIES CLOSE: 4 November 2005

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

..... Postcode ..... Phone No.....

Home Club: ..... Handicap.....

**Additional information:**

The events will be decided over 18 holes stroke play.

In the event of a tie there will be a three-hole play off then sudden death.

Championship trophies will be awarded.

Hickory shafted clubs must be pre-1940;

Hire sets are available for a nominal fee.

Light refreshments will be served following the tournament.

Entry fee to accompany entry form.

Entries to: Tom Moore, 52 Becky Avenue, North Rocks 2151

Phone: 9871-2798; Fax: 9873-2979

or Peter Read email: [read1pet@presto.net.au](mailto:read1pet@presto.net.au)

**Exclusion of Liability – 2005 Hickory Club Championship**

I am aware that, as with any sporting event, there is a risk that I may suffer personal injury as a result of my participation in this event. I agree that, in consideration of being permitted to participate in this event by GCSA/AHGT, I will not hold GCSA/AHGT, or its members, guests, employees, servants or agents, liable for any personal injury however caused whether due to any act of negligence, breach of duty, default or omission on the part of GCSA/AHGT, or its members, guests, employees, servants or agents, or otherwise.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The Golf Collectors Society of Australia

presents

***‘Writing a Golf Club History’***

with Professor Colin Tatz

author of the history books of Monash and Royal Sydney Golf Clubs

**Golf Club Historians are invited to attend a seminar on *Writing a Golf Club History* at 10am on Thursday 24 November, 2005 at Moore Park Golf Club**

**Program:**

- 10.00 Registration and refreshments
- 10.30 Welcome from GCH Group Leader, Erwin Huber
- 10.40 Writing a Golf Club History – Colin Tatz
- 12.00 Experiences and plans in writing a GCH book— Erwin Huber and Bob Ross
- 12.30** Sandwich Lunch
- 1.30 *“I remember when ...”* with special guests
- 1.45 Experiences in writing a GCH book (continued)  
- Jeannie Walker at Manly
- Comments, questions and guidance
- 3.00 **Seminar close**

Participants will be provided with a folder of useful information.

**The seminar fee is \$20 for GCSA members and \$30 for non-members.**

A review of Golf Club history books shows a variety of approaches, size, styles and standards. Great books have been written by not-so-great clubs. What purpose does the book serve? Who is regarded as ‘the reader’ for whom the book is written and how does this affect the approach? What is the balance between ‘writing the history’ and ‘telling the story’? Get answers to these and other questions.

**RSVP by Friday 11 November by post, phone or email to  
GCSA Secretary PO Box 23, Glenorie NSW 2157 (02 9652 1430)**

[barryleithhead@hotmail.net.au](mailto:barryleithhead@hotmail.net.au)



Known as Henry’s Lament or Paterson’s Curse this bunker shot displays all that is good about hickory golf. Armed with his hickory broom handled sand rake iron, Henry can get out of any bunker in one stoke. He has now perfected the shot so that the automatic penalty no longer applies. This new technique, named the Trevino scoop, is only played when necessary and always in Darryl Cox’s presence. Sarazen might have invented the sand iron but it took a Mexican to invent the necessity that spawned the sand rake iron.